

>>> "Dave Weber" <weberd@michigan.gov> 7/17/2006 7:51:18 AM >>>

I think all of the reforms included in the MIRS article today, July 14, 2006, have merit except for the proposal to allow jurors to take notes during trial and review them during deliberation. I think this has the potential for abuse of the process. I have never participated in a trial, as a juror. However, I would expect written notes will gain more credibility during deliberation and so could be misused as a source of persuasion. The assumption is jurors will be fair and impartial, but the drive to be recognized a correct is obviously stronger for some. I think it would be more prudent to provide summary court reporter notes. That way all parties are operating with the same facts, just like when they rely on their individual memories. I don't think it is the role of jurors to sway opinion through the presentation of facts. It is their role to decide on the merit of facts, as they are presented.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Dave Weber,